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Senate Majority Leader Sikkema says Governor's Scholarship Program is Too Flawed to Approve

Sikkema: 'Passing this without addressing the flaws is irresponsible.'

Lansing - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema today said the governor's "New Merit Award Scholarship" is too flawed for the Senate to approve and he will not be persuaded by ultimatums laid out in the form of special messages to the Legislature.

"The governor's proposal is not acceptable and needs more discussion. I'm willing to work with her on this, but we haven't made any progress because she has yet to find a way to pay for it or address the other problems. Passing this in its current form would be irresponsible," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming.

Sikkema noted that the current Merit Award Scholarship is a success, providing financial support to many students who might not otherwise attend college. Sikkema also said the governor is sending mixed messages by creating a new scholarship program while working fervently to eliminate others.

"We have several scholarship programs that all serve a purpose and are working well," Sikkema said. "Acting on the governor's current proposal would be a mistake. It is unfortunate the governor feels it necessary to communicate with the Legislature in this way. She has replaced governing by press release with governing by special message and neither method shows effective leadership."

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